

WOMAN LAWYER'S CHANCES

PRETTY HARD FOR HER TO GET INTO COURT.

But Not So Difficult to Obtain a Clerkship in a Prosperous Law Firm. The question of obtaining her own share of the legal profession is being discussed by a woman lawyer.

BY A WOMAN LAWYER.

A certain young woman lawyer had commenced her apprenticeship in the law office of Doe & Roe. One morning early after, Portia answered the ringing of the telephone, she detected a distressed masculine voice inquiring for Mr. Doe or Mr. Roe. In response Portia regretted that neither of the firm had yet appeared, but suggested that possibly the speaker might be of service.

"Thank you," replied the worried voice, "but I must have a lawyer."

It was Portia's opportunity, and she hastened to rise to the occasion.

"Very well, I am a lawyer."

Then there was a long, still moment of intense silence broken by the wires buzzing feebly but apologetically.

"Your pardon, sir; I had thought I was addressing a lady."

Fortunately at that moment Mr. Doe entered the office and took control of the phone and the situation.

Like this client of Doe & Roe, the general public has yet to learn that a lady can be a lawyer and a lawyer a lady.

In New York, despite the number of women that pass their bar examinations every year, there are probably not more than a score engaged in active practice with offices of their own.

The explanation lies in the fact that only a small proportion of women who study law have ever cherished any intention of making it their profession. Many are intellectually restless college graduates who enter the law school as an agreeable postlude to a university career in much the same spirit that their sisters study domestic science or arts and crafts. There are likewise a number of teachers and business women who devote their evenings to studying law purely for purposes of mental development, but at the completion of their course have no desire to sacrifice a certain, regular salary for the precarious income of a struggling lawyer.

Then there are always a number of intelligent women of the so-called leisure class who really think they might like to practise, but always with the mental proviso that there is nothing more important on the horizon. These women belong to the type who are alert to all phases of social progress, whether it be extension of the franchise, trade unions, consumer leagues or organized charities.

Toward the furtherance of beneficent legislation a working knowledge of the law now appears to them a desirable adjunct. This type of woman is fascinated by a conception of the dignity and majesty of the legal profession, gleaned from novels in the library alcove, but of the law as a business of the most prosaic, the most exacting variety she has no notion. The fretting, unromantic details of enforcing collection claims, compelling an uncouth marshal to do his duty, filing a compulsory judgment debtor in supplementary proceedings if she thinks of these things at all, they are mentally brushed aside as distasteful duties to be performed, if at all, by some one else. She is interested in law only so long as it appears picturesque.

After a girl has passed her bar examinations and has been sworn in before a court of elders calculated to awe the young and imprudent of either sex, she is fortunate if she can secure an appointment in a small office where she can gain the varied experience to be found in a general practice. But unfortunately it is in the small office that a woman finds it hardest to gain a foothold.

The first needed assistant in any law firm is a combination stenographer and telephone girl; then as the business grows, the next need is an amalgamated office boy and process server; some one who stands ready to do any kind of job there is to be done. Now an ambitious young woman may well decline her willingness to go for the mail, and when necessary to brave the elements at an hour of day or night in order to serve a summons in a divorce suit upon a drunken chauffeur who can usually be found late in the evening somewhere about a saloon in the Bronx. Nevertheless, despite her declared willingness, there are certain duties incidental to general practice which a gentleman is loath to demand of any woman. For this very potent reason, if there is one place open at \$3 a week and the choice lies between a college bred young woman and an eighteen-year-old high school boy the boy gets it.

In the large office where a number of clerks are kept a woman stands a better chance of gaining a place. In law, as in every other business, the tendency is toward specialization, and in a large, well regulated law concern will be found a collection department, a corporation department, a real estate department and a corps of scholarly assistants who spend their days in the library looking up points of law to be utilized by the attorneys who attend to all court matters.

In such an office there are any number of places where a woman may become a useful cog in the machinery, and so long as she is content with inside work she may progress to a salary of from \$5 to \$50 a week. Lawyers in a position to know assert that women, with their painstaking care and capacity for detail, make excellent managing clerks. But if the woman clerk worries of brief making and writing hortatory letters to delinquent debtors, and expresses a desire to assist in court she is likely to meet with but small encouragement. Inasmuch as the older conservative firms do not wish to be represented by a woman, afraid of appearing cheapened in the eyes of the profession, this is a prejudice that nothing but time can remove.

Within the confines of the office itself a woman finds that her fellow clerks regard her at first with a certain reserved disapproval, which, however, dissipates itself forever as soon as she has proved herself to be an obliging, unobjectionable person, just like any other human being.

It is, moreover, the female stenographers who are almost to lower the bars, and assist them the woman law clerks who win their way by an endless exercise of diplomacy and tact.

From the start they resent her presence among them, but above them, and are quick to intimate that they "don't like to take dictation from a woman," while running with eagerness to fulfill the dictation orders of the youngest trousered stippling. It may be observed that nowhere does an encounter women more need of the supremacy of man than in the very nature of their work as daily brought into contact with men clearly

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their superiors in training, education and position.

The stenographer whom circumstance forced into bread winning and who chafes at her lot is mentally determined to marry out of it at the first desirable opportunity. With this cherished ideal ever before her, her greatest horror is that of appearing unattractive and hence unattractive in the eyes of men. For this reason alone she would accept with reluctance the lawyer girl, who instead of taking dictation from men meets them on their own ground, argues with them and it must be confessed occasionally carries off the laurels.

Despite the excellent office positions which are being filled by women, women lawyers are ambitious like their brothers to hang out their own shingles; although perfectly cognizant of the fact that while the path of the young lawyer is proverbially lacking in roses, when that young lawyer is of the female sex roses are scarcer still. Nevertheless everywhere women are taking the plunge and are succeeding; they may not be drawing \$10,000 fees, but they are making a living, which everywhere is reckoned a success with the women who have gone into teaching, trained nursing, newspaper work and all the other well travelled paths. Moreover they have the stimulus which comes from something which brings one in touch with something new every day; a profession in which experience counts and in which it is not held as disgrace to be old.

The first requisite for any lawyer, male or female, is clients, and how to get them has puzzled many a wise young brain. In this respect the woman is peculiarly handicapped.

A man lawyer meets everywhere men who have business in the downtown restaurant, through his college affiliations, through his clubs, wherever men congregate. Now, a girl lawyer among the friends of her own sex hears little but chatter about clothes, household matters and new babies, and very properly most women leave their business affairs in the hands of male relatives, who turn for legal advice to their lawyer friends.

On account of this lack of association with men on their own ground the average woman lawyer finds herself woefully lacking in knowledge of what a man has absorbed as naturally and unconsciously as a boy learns baseball. But her client may take for granted her understanding of stock brokers and market quotations, of clearing houses and banking terms and a great many other things that were untouched upon by Blackstone.

Furthermore, a woman is not a good bluffer on matters of which she is ignorant. As deep knowledge has never been expected of a woman, she finds nothing humiliating in expressing her ignorance, and in the same circumstances a man would deliberately sagely. "That depends," then plunge into some legal verbiage which sounds well to the humble minded client unlearned in the law but really has very little to do with the point. Now although no lawyer can achieve permanent success by bluff alone, nevertheless there is such a thing as holding a client's respect and attention until one has had time to consult a law book and gain definite information on the subject in question; and the woman must learn that there is nothing unworthy in such a course.

Many a woman lawyer starts off on her career determined to fight shy of certain undesirable classes of business, more especially matrimonial difficulties of all sorts. But step by step she succumbs, until like her masculine colleague she is ready to take any legitimate business at hand, and the result is that she is a generalist, and a generalist is a lawyer who is not a lawyer.

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stenographer some dignified member of the nobler sex. However, the sooner the woman lawyer can learn to expect dictation coming from her adversary and a fair field and no quarter for the better for herself and for all other women who may follow her in the profession.

She may count on honest treatment from the court, for judges are on the whole a conscientious body of men, anxious to dispense justice to all alike, and a woman at their hands will meet with the same consideration though they be no more. But so far no woman has gained any distinction as a trial lawyer, for to be a good trial lawyer requires a peculiar kind of temperament, with a very great deal of experience, which women are too new at the profession to have achieved.

But year by year women through conscientious, intelligent work are demanding recognition by the bench and bar. It is by no means an unheard of thing for a woman to be appointed a referee or a receiver, in bankruptcy cases, and succeeding decade brings us nearer the cherished millennium when a woman with a predilection for law may follow her natural bent as readily as if she had chosen dressmaking.

At present the reason why more women do not succeed in the legal profession is because they do not want to work. They strive earnestly to be admitted to the bar, but that coveted goal once reached they are content to rest on their oars, banking in the prestige they have gained among their friends. For the same reason, like the name they are unwilling to play the game, and very often they refuse to enter the lists at all unless secure in the consciousness that they can afford it.

But experience proves every day that the woman who can afford to practise law is not the woman who gets there. The woman who succeeds is the woman who is goaded on by the spur of necessity, the woman who must get clients and make collections if she is to pay her office rent and settle her bills. In fact, as one gray haired counsellor summed up the situation when addressing a group of young women aspirants for legal honors: "For the sake of your profession, you've got to be ready to forego recreation, recreation; you've got to be willing to sweat blood. Unless you are willing why, you might far better go into something else."

THE PASSING OF THE YANKEE.

Rugs and Automobiles Blamed for the Falling Off of Birth Rate.

BOSTON, Oct. 29.—Prof. Robert J. Sprague of the Massachusetts Agricultural College at Amherst in looking over the last State census figures out that the Yankee race is threatened with extinction. Rugs and automobiles are blamed in part for the falling off of the birth rate.

"We conceal our love making," the professor declares, "and this produces a result like prohibition in Maine; you get the kind of stuff. Romance should be free and easy, and make it getting along better after five years if they asked their friends to find their wives, for the present basis of choice is often blind infatuation."

"A woman may work like a slave in doors, get indigestion and have nervous prostration, but must not exercise in the open air for economic ends, lest she lose her social standing and her husband desert her. This is race suicide, for the Almighty has made our race that endures must breathe air, but that we love Oriental rugs and automobiles more."

Prof. Sprague declares that factory regulations to compel better ventilation and healthful conditions in general are essential. "Get health, vitality and earning power," he says, "and race suicide will not be a pertinent question."

The decline of the family, and the death of the former, Calhoun is the first danger that threatens the modern family and the Anglo-Saxon race in the United States. Calhoun is unknown among savages and primitive peoples, but is common among the Asiatics, very rare among the Europeans, but most prominent in western Europe and America. During the Southern rebellion thousands of the blood of Massachusetts went to the war, and after the close of the struggle, the other thousands went West to occupy the free land by force and then these events left spinsters at home to work out their own lives.

Modern civilization, involving concentrated industrialism, the unequal distribution of wealth, extended education and delayed earning power on the part of the young men, all put off of marriage until it is almost impossible to give up entirely. The economic independence of women, together with social recognition of working women and the physical comforts of bachelorhood, also make marriage less attractive.

The more complicated the development of the individual mentally, morally, aesthetically, the more difficult it is to find a mate who will satisfy all desires, whose romantic love is the last word in romance. Some young men are celibates because of prudery and fear of freely mingling with the opposite sex under conditions that are the great source of feelings and impulses.

Race suicide is the next form of the family problem. This is both involuntary and voluntary. It is involuntary when it appears where families cannot have children who would like to do so because of the weakening of the physical and reduction of vitality by the modern urban conditions, the steam heated house, the weary years in unhealthily crowded schools, the lack of exercise, free exercise in the open air, all reduce the vitality of would-be parents."

THE LOST BEAM OF LIGHT.

Which Mr. Glimmy Misses, but Which Some Day He Hopes to Find Back.

"I don't like to sleep in a dark room," said Mr. Glimmy. "I don't mean I want a light burning, but I like some light in the room; I don't like it plumb black dark."

"For years we lived in a house where we got just exactly the sort of light I like. Next to us there were two or three vacant lots and in this house where we lived our flat was on that open side. Our rooms were all light by day, and by night we got that light that I particularly liked from a street lamp that shined a piece down the block."

"We lived very high in my room the light from this lamp shined a broad diagonal beam, not too bright, half the distance across my ceiling, and to me it always seemed very pleasing and friendly, a sort of friend and guardian through the night."

"When I doused my glim and went to bed it was not in a room that was dark and mysterious and scary. It was dark, but it was not dark, because I had put my own brighter light within, but then when I had stretched myself out to rest on my comfortable couch I looked up and saw that friendly beam of light on the ceiling, dispelling the gloom. It didn't light the room, but it took away the dark and told me that everything was going on just the same in its natural order, that the world was living. And if I woke up in the night it was not in a dead and darkened room, there was the friendly beam of light always reassuring."

"I am moved to say all these things by the fact that we've moved into a house in a solidly built block, where no outside light comes in from the street, and I miss my friend the street lamp. My room is dark still. I am not disposed to take a gloomy view of things, but I shall go to bed tonight and try to anything, but when we move again I shall look for a place like the one we had before, for I did like that friendly beam of light on the ceiling."

JOHN WANAMAKER PREDICTS

READJUSTMENT OF TRUSTS AND THEN GOOD TIMES.

He Thinks the Great Corporations Will Get Into Harmony With the Sherman Law and That Steady Prosperity Will Follow—Eulogy of the President.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 29.—Addressing a company of newspaper men on Saturday evening John Wanamaker predicted that the large business interests of the country would adjust themselves to the requirements of the Sherman law as interpreted by the Supreme Court and that this adjustment would be followed by an era of prosperous business conditions.

In an impromptu speech Mr. Wanamaker paid tribute to President Taft as "our greatest lawyer President," who he said was applying the law with reasonableness and justice. Mr. Wanamaker spoke in part as follows:

"May I add a few words about business conditions? The Bible did not make the devil, the Bible simply interpreted the devil."

"The Sherman act against trusts came along because trusts existed and were multiplying."

"Our busy, unsuspicious people were not aware of the power and hardships traceable to monopolistic corporations, and the continual advance in the cost of living, raiment and all building improvements awakened the people during Mr. Roosevelt's term, and he rallied them around him by his outspoken views as their deliverer from oppressions, deceptions and dishonesties."

"President Roosevelt practically initiated proceedings against certain trusts that restrained trade, controlled production and had warped in some instances for enormous dividends."

"A day had to come when the people all over the United States would get behind their Senators and Congressmen, judges, writers and the newspaper world generally and demand relief. That day had to come or it would have produced anarchy."

"That day of relief has arrived. It has come with firm steps, but kindly, with the reasonableness and justice of our greatest lawyer President and the moderation and wisdom of the Supreme Court."

"Now, with a little patience, time and fairness all the great trusts will conform to laws on the statute book as understood and interpreted by the highest tribunal of the Government of the United States."

"I do not believe that Mr. Morgan, Mr. Frick or Mr. Gary will care to defend any organization which by inadvertence expresses in its organization anything of unrighteousness. After all, organizations are top and bottom and centers are men. It is written: 'As a man thinketh, so is he, and so are his companies and businesses.' Let us sure the dirt is laid under the man or set of men doing business contrary to existing statutes, when such is proved to them, without animosity or unkindness, and they will conform. We will set their houses in proper order. For this reason I believe we are on the eve of a new era of better, steeper, prospering business."

"America can square itself to war when it has to be, and yet more easily to permanent peace. So it can and will meet the new era of regulation of tariffs, trusts and stock markets."

"The highest glory of this century will be for America, when it is recognized by the world that its people have become reversed and obedient to laws and have demanded and secured the prompt execution of every law on the statute book that equal justice may be done to the poor and to the rich without delays or favor."

FOR EQUAL REPRESENTATION.

Bourne Objects to the Apportioning of Delegates to National Convention.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29.—Senator Jonathan Bourne, president of the Progressive Republican League, today denounced the present plan of apportionment of delegates to the national Republican convention as "unjust and un-American."

Referring to the fact that the States of Oregon, North Dakota, New Jersey, New York and Wisconsin have entered a Presidential preference law providing for primaries and the instruction of national delegates, Senator Bourne says that these States will have but one delegate for every 6,000 to 9,000 votes cast for Taft and Sherman at the last Presidential election, while South Carolina will have one for every 220 votes cast.

Mr. Bourne demands that State lines be eliminated and that delegates be apportioned on a basis of equality, making a certain number of delegates for every unit. He says that the South is dominated by a Federal machine and that through the unequal representation, which amounts to "tyranny," the machine controls the nomination.

Senator Bourne has figured out some of the certain number of delegates for every unit. He finds that 800 Republicans in Florida have as much voice in the convention as 10,000 Republicans in Michigan, and that 10,000 Republicans in Indiana count no more than 400 Louisiana Republicans. Mississippi Republicans get as much representation for 218 Taft votes as in 1908 as Michigan got for 11,000, while Ohio gets to more representatives for 12,000 votes for her favorite son than South Carolina for 220 votes cast for Taft and Sherman in 1908.

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